



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

SUBJECT

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program: Approve Extension of the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Contract to December 31, 2006



Action



Information



Public Hearing

RECOMMENDATION

Approve extending the Educational Testing Service (ETS) contract for developing the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and administering the CSTs and California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey)

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- At its April 2002 meeting, the State Board designated ETS as the STAR contractor for three years (2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05) and stated that it would consider up to a two-year contract extension if the Program were authorized beyond 2005.
- At its June 2002 meeting, the Board approved the ETS contract and scope of work.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- The Governor signed SB 1448 that reauthorizes the STAR Program to January 1, 2011, on August 16, 2004.
- The reauthorization makes the following changes in the Program
 - Changes the requirement of administering a national norm-referenced test from grades two through eleven to grades three and seven.
 - Allows school districts and schools to use materials provided by the California Department of Education to prepare students for the California Standards Tests.
 - Requires the Department to develop and adopt primary language tests aligned with the California Content Standards to replace the designated primary language test.
- Contractors for the STAR Program are selected through a Request for Submission

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

(RFS) process. Approximately 20 months are required for developing tests from the time the Department distributes a Request for Submission (RFS) until test booklets are ready for printing. To have a new contractor for the 2005-06 test administration, a RFS would have needed to be distributed during February 2004, six months before the reauthorization legislation was signed.

- The Department is currently preparing a RFS to distribute during February 2005. This will allow the Board to designate a new contractor at its September 2005 meeting for the purpose of preparation for the spring 2007 STAR administration.
- Extending the current contract to December 31, 2006, provides time for the current contractor to complete all reporting requirements for the spring 2006 test administration, including providing the final corrected data files that will be used to post final Internet reports during early December 2006.

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The current 2004-05 contract is budgeted at \$55.5 million. The cost for an additional administration is to be approved by the Department of Finance (DOF). The Department does not expect a one-year contract extension to exceed \$55.5 million.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.

Last Minute Memorandum will be submitted.